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**CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT**

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**COUNTRY** Rumania

**SUBJECT** CENTROCCP (Central Union of RPR Cooperatives/ Present and Former Officials of CENTROCCP/ Reasons Leading to Arrest of Vielle Luca, Teohari Georgescu and Ana Pauker

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DATE DISTR. 30 Nov 1953

NO. OF PAGES 6

NO. OF ENCLS.

SUPP. TO  
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

**Location of Office:**

2. The CENTROCCP (Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor din RPR---Central Union of RPR Cooperatives) comes under the supervision of the Ministry of Cooperatives. At Bucharest, the CENTROCCP was situated in the following buildings:

- (a) CENTROCCP central offices; all directors, vice-directors and advisers located here; situated in the former Savoy Hotel, at the corner of Sarinder Street and Calea Victoriei Street.
- (b) No 26, Brezileanu Street, occupying a three-storey building.
- (c) A building is also opposite the Liceul No 32 (Lyceum No 32) formerly the Nicolae Balcescu Lyceum, situated on a street formerly having the same name; the new name of the street is unknown.

**Activities Supervised by CENTROCCP**

3. To the best of my knowledge (which is not technical or precise), the CENTROCCP supervised:

- (a) The UCCOM (Uniunea Centrala a Cooperativelor Meșteșugaresti---Central Union of the Trades' Cooperatives), situated on Plevnei Street at Bucharest. The supervision exercised over this body was merely formal.
- (b) The Cooperative for the Production of Refractory (Cooperativa de productie ceramica si re-sale), owned by the CENTROCCP, which are scattered throughout all of Rumania.

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- (c) Sale of food commodities throughout all markets in the principal towns of Rumania. All markets of Bucharest are owned by the CENTROCOP, which supplies the markets with food from cooperative farms.
- (d) Sale of tobacco. In February, 1952, all private tobacco retail stores were nationalized. Owners of tobacco stores automatically became employees of the CENTRO-COP. There are, however, other tobacco State stores, which are supervised by the OCL (Organizația Comercială Locală-Local Commerce Organization), coming under the management of the local People's Board (former municipality). This duplication of supervision is due to the fact that some private owners of retail tobacco stores realized months in advance that some day they would be nationalized. Therefore, they voluntarily handed over their stores to the People's Board, which Board grouped them under the OCL organization. After nationalization, former owners of tobacco stores received (and are still receiving) six per cent of the total amount of tobacco sold to the public. They are considered as employees, but are paid on a percentage basis.
- (e) All granaries. The distribution of corn and other food items comes under the direct supervision of the CENTROCOP. The body owns in addition many State Farms and livestock breeding centers throughout all of Rumania. The distribution of corn and flour to the population, as well as to the Rumanian Armed Forces (including Soviet occupation troops) takes place only thru the CENTROCOP. At the beginning of 1952, as a result of the shortage of food supplies the CENTROCOP decided to make a partial evaluation of farmers products. In other words, farmers, could, if they wanted to (actually many times the CENTROCOP preferred it) exchange, for clothing and other items, food supplies (such as eggs, corn, flour, vegetables, etc). For example, a peasant, needing material with which to make himself a shirt, went to the CENTROCOP Cooperative of his village and handed over potatoes, eggs or vegetables equalling the value of the material or handed over an amount of produce in partial payment for the material, making up the balance in cash. The food supplies accumulated in this fashion were collected in collecting centers and shipped according to orders received from the CENTROCOP of Bucharest to the towns or centers needing food supplies or being short of certain food commodities. At the same time, the CENTRO-COP supplied food to the Rumanian Armed Forces and Soviet occupation troops, per requests received from the MFA, MAI and MSS. In other words, all food supplies in Rumania are in the hands of the CENTRO-COP.

List of Present and Former Officials

4. "Below is a list of high CENTROCOP officials:

- (a) (fnu) Hagiu; present position: Minister of the CENTROCOP; aged about 42; 172 cm tall; black hair; and eyes; married; has a 14 year-old boy. Resided in a villa in Bufet Park, located at the terminus station of street-car No. 20 (near the Kisselleff boulevard). Hagiu is a former shoemaker by profession; in the past worked in a shoemaker's shop located on Dudesti Street. He replaced Attorney Cernisica in June 1952 after Cernisica's arrest.

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- (b) (fnu) Cernisica, Attorney-at-Law; position prior to arrest: Minister and General Director of the Finance Department of the CENTROCOP. He is aged 38, originally from Bucharest, has blue eyes, is bald; married (wife working at the Arlus) with 2 children (aged about 5); resided in Dorobanti Park.
- (c) (fnu) Sciolimos; position prior to arrest: Vice-Minister (in Rumanian: Ministru Adjunct) and Vice-President of the CENTROCOP. Aged 42; red hair; blue eyes; 188 cm. tall; fat; single, originally from Oradea-Mare; a former Professor in Philosophy. Resided at Bucharest in Jianu Park. He was also General Director of the Administrative Department of the CENTROCOP.
- (d) Victor Nagy, position prior to arrest: Vice-Minister, Vice-President and General Director of Production Department. Nagy is Vasile Luca's brother-in-law. Aged 48; 190 cm tall, blond-red hair; brown eyes; wears glasses when working; has moustache, married (has three children: 2 boys aged about 21, of whom one is an engineer, and a 20 year-old daughter). He resided at Bucharest in a villa situated in the section of town formerly named Biserica Alba (new name unknown). Nagy is a former blacksmith by profession, originally from Sf Gheorghe (Transylvania).
- (e) (fnu) Zsabo, position prior to arrest: Adviser and General Director of the Vegetables and Contracting Department. He is aged about 45-48; 172 cm tall; blond hair, blue eyes; married (no children). At Bucharest he resided in a small villa in Jianu Park, but his family resided at Sf Gheorghe. He is Vasile Luca's cousin, and a former gardener by profession, originating from Sf Gheorghe. He was a good-hearted person, just the opposite of Nagy, who was wicked and stingy.
- (f) (fnu) Dobric, present position: Adviser and General Director of the Milk Department. In February 1951, the CENTROCOP took over the former body of Aprolacte and, thus, also supervises the distribution of milk supplies throughout Rumania. Dobric was, in fact, the former General Director of the Aprolacte. Dobric, in the past, also had the position of President of the People's Board of the town of Stalin (Brasov). Aged 40; blond hair; brown eyes; height 180 cm; thin; single; residing at Bucharest in a villa in Dorobanti park. Probably of very humble background.
- (g) (fnu) Hulduban, position prior to his arrest: Vice-Minister and Director General of the Valorificari (Evaluation) Department. Aged 32; height 170 cm; brown eyes and hair; married (baby boy aged 3). Resided in a villa on London Street (Jianu Park). He came from the Moldavia region, and during World War II gave himself up willingly to the Red Army on the Eastern Front. In March 1944, he was parachuted by the Soviet Air Force near Salmi-Segetuzna village (Hatel-Caransebes) on a special mission. Until World War II, Hulduban, by profession a carpenter, worked in a carpenter's workshop in the Obor section of Bucharest. (At that time he resided on Doamna Ghica Street).

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- (h) Name unknown, aged 35, present position: Soviet Adviser of the CENTROCOP; a Soviet citizen; married, with two children (family residing at Moscow). The Pobeda [REDACTED] was constantly assigned to the Soviet Adviser.

Reasons Leading to the Arrest of Vasile Luca, Techari Georgescu, Ana Pauker, and their 'Gang'

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5. [REDACTED] the arrest of Nagy, Sciolimos, Zsabo, Cernisica, Dobric and Hulduban, and the real reason which led to the arrest of Luca, Georgescu and Ana Pauker was the great shortage of food commodities in Rumania during 1952.

6. "It should be stressed first of all that during the fall of 1951 and the early months of 1952, the Rumanians signed certain commercial treaties with the Governments of Czechoslovakia, the USSR and Eastern Germany for the exchange of food supplies for various machinery and raw materials, and exchange in kind and not in currency. To this should be added the quantities of food supplies Rumania was shipping to the USSR as war reparations.

7. "Prior to signing these commercial agreements, the CENTROCOP supplied the Rumanian Council of Ministers with detailed statistics on all food supplies stored in Rumania's granaries. The figures and quantities shown in these statistics were completely false. Vasile Luca's cousin and brother-in-law [Zsabo and Nagy], as well as the other Director Generals erred in their statistics on the food supplies stored in Rumania's granaries and this mistake was due to their incapacity and their lack of technical knowledge. The Soviet Adviser, who from time to time was also making spot checks throughout the CENTROCOP's granaries, did not make any objection to the figures presented him and commercial agreements with the aforementioned countries were signed, with the first shipments of machinery beginning to reach Rumania. However, as soon as Rumania began shipping its food commodities to Czechoslovakia, East Germany and the USSR, Rumania's granaries were quickly emptied. This was the real reason for the terrible shortage of bread existing throughout Rumania. The situation became increasingly desperate during the early months of 1952. During March and April 1952, the Soviet Adviser personally toured all of Rumania's granaries in order personally to see the true situation. According to the statistics shown him by his Rumanian colleagues (Zsabo, Nagy, etc.) the situation was still quite satisfactory, but the truth was that there was no grain in the granaries. On 13 Apr 52, a special meeting was held at the CENTROCOP on Sarindar Street with all the Rumanian Advisers present and also Vasile Luca and Techari Georgescu. This meeting lasted for over 18 hours, and the following day the Soviet Adviser flew to Moscow. Undoubtedly, this was the preliminary state which led to the arrest of all the gang.

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8. "On 14 Jun 52, all Rumanian Advisers and Vice-Ministers gathered for a special meeting to be held at the CENTROCOP central seat. [REDACTED]

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- A few days later [REDACTED] they were taken to a special concentration camp for high-official political detainees, situated in the immediate vicinity of Bragadiru Village (on the outskirts of Bucharest). While no action was taken against their families, Nagy, Sciolimos, Zsabo, Cernisica, Dobric and Hulduban seem to have completely disappeared. A week after their arrest, new Vice-Ministers and Director Generals arrived at the CENTROCOP. [REDACTED]

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5.

[REDACTED]

(a) (fnu) Sandulescu, aged about 50, former President of the Commerce and Cooperative Syndicate of Baia-Mare; replaced Nagy.

(b) (fnu) Arton, director of the CENTROCCOP of Constanta, aged 32; replaced Zsabo. He drove in a [REDACTED]

(c) (fnu) Gogu, formerly Assistant Director at the CENTROCCOP, aged 27, a former blacksmith from Galati; replaced Dobric.

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#### Personal Lives of Officials

9. "All Advisers and General Directors had, in addition to the car assigned to them, a personal car. Nagy, owned a B.M.W.; Zsabo a Pobeda; Sciolimos a 1952 Studebaker; Cernicica a Hydromatic-drive Pontiac; Dobric a B.M.W., and Huiduban a Pobeda. Every Sunday, actually from Saturday afternoon, Zsabo and Nagy left for Sf George, their native town where each one possessed a villa. The policy of each one driving in a different car and employing a different driver wasn't liked by Gheorghiu-Dej [REDACTED]

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10. "In fact, Zsabo, as already mentioned above, was a good-hearted man. In the past, he had been detained for political activities (during Antonescu's regime) and thus had learned the trade of tailoring. He used to joke with me [REDACTED] Zsabo

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was a very strange man. Many times, when going on missions, he used to stop the car in the middle of the road and began playing checkers. He used to ask [REDACTED]: 'Tell me the truth, do you prefer Adviser Zsabo or gardener Zsabo?'

#### Role of Security Captain

11. "Top officials of the CENTROCCOP, when driving out on missions through Rumania were accompanied by a Security Captain (dressed in civilian clothing but armed). This held true for: Cernicica, Sciolimos, Nagy and Huiduban. The Security Captain could not interfere in any discussion between let us say, Nagy and the driver, nor in regard to the direction of the trip etc. He was simply in charge of the protection of the personality concerned. [REDACTED]

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12. "To emphasize the non-interference of the Security Captain, I mention the following fact. After the famous meeting held at the CENTROCCOP of Bucharest on 13 Apr 52, [REDACTED] Nagy on a special mission in Transylvania. It was the night of 15-16 Apr 52 and Nagy and the Security Captain were both sleeping in the rear seats of the car [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] stopped the car and slept for about three to four hours. At 6:30 AM [REDACTED] Nagy and the Security Captain awoke, and Nagy, who noticed that the car was stopped and that we hadn't reached the Mercurea-Ciuc locality, began swearing [REDACTED]

The Security Captain did not interfere at all. After a few km down the road, while crossing a small village, the car, because of its great speed (about 130 km per hour) killed a calf which was crossing the road. The car (a B.M.W.), did not suffer much damage. Nagy immediately paid 200 lei to the farmer for killing his calf.

#### Present Whereabouts of Pauker, Luca and Georgescu

13. "Ana Pauker, Vasile Luca and Techari Georgescu are free and not under arrest. They have all been given forced residence at Bucharest but none of them is under arrest, at least at the present time [REDACTED] September 1953. In July 1953, [REDACTED]

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[redacted] Nowadays, Ana Pauker gives lessons in the Russian language at the Arlus. Techari Georgescu and Vasile Luca are both free, and dedicate their 'free time' to fishing in Herestrau Lake. [redacted] colleague [redacted] has seen both Vasile Luca and Techari Georgescu fishing on Herestrau Lake in August 1953.

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